ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND STUDIES PROGRAM

Psychology Building Room 210
Phone: 410-704-4920
Fax: 410-704-3959
Email: envs@towson.edu

The Program

The Environmental Science and Studies Program (https://www.towson.edu/fcsm/departments/environsci) has two primary educational objectives. One is to provide the fundamental scientific, technical, and social knowledge that program graduates will need to assess, plan and evaluate environmental concerns, particularly those confronting metropolitan regions. The second is to instill the wide range of cognitive skills and content mastery that students will need to effectively analyze environmental issues and propose realistic plans for solving environmental problems at local, regional and national levels.

The requirements of the program are structured to meet these two objectives and include mathematical and scientific foundations as well as extensive interdisciplinary study related to environmental issues. The upper-level courses integrate the student’s program of study and provide hands-on practice in an environmental field. The environmental problems addressed in many classes and seminars will focus on the adjacent urban/suburban region and its impact on the surrounding environment.

Most solutions to environmental problems require input from multiple disciplines and environmental education programs need to reflect the complexity of the environmental processes they present. Therefore, the Environmental Science and Studies program utilizes a rigorous interdisciplinary approach. The curriculum draws upon the expertise of faculty in the areas of biology, chemistry, geology, mathematics, geography, environmental ethics and values, public policy, science education, economics, public health and social change.

Students majoring in Environmental Science and Studies have a choice of two concentrations: Environmental Studies or Environmental Science. Although there is considerable overlap in the courses between the two concentrations, Environmental Science is part of the Fisher College of Science and Mathematics and Environmental Studies is part of the College of Liberal Arts.

- Major in Environmental Science and Studies - Environmental Studies Concentration (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/environmental-science-studies/environmental-studies)
- Minor in Environmental Studies (http://catalog.towson.edu/undergraduate/liberal-arts/environmental-science-studies/environmental-science-studies-minor)

Courses

ENVS 301 PEOPLE AND PESTS (3)
Impact of select pest species (insects, weeds, or microbes) on humans and human affairs; why some organisms become pests; approaches to controlling pest organisms. Not for credit towards ENVS major or minor. Prerequisites: GenEd I.B. and at least one high school or college Biology course. GenEd II.A.

ENVS 307 THE CHESAPEAKE BAY AND ITS WATERSHED (3)
The Chesapeake Bay and the natural processes and anthropogenic disturbances that influence its health are the focus. The multidisciplinary nature of environmental problem solving is also explored through writing assignments. Requires grade of C or better to fulfill GenEd requirement. Prerequisites: GenEd 1.A writing course, two courses in two different disciplines from among the following: BIOL 200/BIOL 200L (BIOL 201), BIOL 202, CHEM 104, CHEM 131/ CHEM 131L (CHEM 110), GEOL 121, GEOG 101, or permission of the instructor. GenEd I.D.

ENVS 382 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND SERVICE LEARNING IN THE TROPICS (3)
Designed for majors in Science or Education with an interest in Environmental Education; course work will take place in Costa Rica; emphasis on tropical forest ecology concepts applicable to PreK-12 environmental education and management of tropical natural resources. Cross-listed as BIOL 382. Prerequisites: minimum Junior status and consent of the instructor.

ENVS 431 SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND STUDIES (1-4)
Study of a special topic related to Environmental Science and Studies. Topic can vary and will be announced. May be repeated if a different topic is covered.

ENVS 432 SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND STUDIES (1-4)
Study of a special topic related to Environmental Science and Studies. Topic can vary and will be announced. May be repeated if a different topic is covered.

ENVS 438 SPECIAL TOPICS IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND STUDIES (1-4)
Study of a special topic related to Environmental Science and Studies. Topic can vary and will be announced. May be repeated if a different topic is covered.

ENVS 471 INDEPENDENT STUDY IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND STUDIES (1-3)
Studies in selected content areas tailored to student needs. This course may be repeated for a total of 3 credits. Prerequisites: ESS major only, completion of 30 credit hours of required ESS coursework or consent of instructor.

ENVS 482 ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH (3)
Independent investigation of an environmental problem/question under the guidance of a faculty member. Paper and public presentation required. Prerequisites: ESS major, junior or senior standing and consent of instructor. Special permit required.

ENVS 485 ENVIRONMENTAL INTERNSHIP (3)
Practical application of environmental science and studies through a supervised work experience with business, industry, public or private agency. Analytical final product in which the student integrates workplace experience with academic studies required. Prerequisites: ESS major, junior or senior standing, 2.50 QPA in ESS required courses, and consent of internship coordinator.

ENVS 491 SENIOR SEMINAR (3)
Synthesis, analysis and application of information from a broad range of perspectives. Prerequisites: ESS major, completion of GenEd I.D. requirement, and senior standing. Special permit required.